

SAMTRANS LIAISON REPORT

Meeting of January 5, 2022

BOARD ACTIONS

- Adopted a Resolution Making Findings that the Proclaimed State of Emergency for COVID-19 Continues to Impact the Board's and Committees' Ability to Meet Safely in Person
- Approved Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of December 1, 2021 and Special Minutes of December 6, 2021
- Accepted Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending November 30, 2021
- Authorized Execution of an Amendment to a Professional Services Agreement with Bay Relations, Inc. for Public Affairs Services
- Elected Director Peter Ratto as Board Chair and Director Josh Powell as Vice Chair for 2022
- Adopted the 2022 Legislative Program

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- Outgoing Chair Charles Stone noted that Director Jeff Gee's father, Richard "Dick" Gee, had passed away on December 24 and provided some highlights from his contributions to public transportation. Carter Mau, General Manager/CEO, and the Board members expressed their condolences and incoming Chair Ratto noted that Dick Gee had laid the groundwork for the establishment of SamTrans' North Base maintenance yard.
- Mr. Mau commended Director Stone on his leadership of the Board over the past two years. He noted that ridership is currently at 65 percent of pre-pandemic numbers, which is on the high side for the transit industry. He said that those numbers will continue to be monitored in the wake of the most recent outbreak guidelines. He expressed optimism that the few COVID cases reported recently at the District have not had a material impact to continuing to provide service.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Community Relations Committee

Accessible Services Update

Tina Dubost, Manager, Accessible Transit Services, said that the fees for the regional transit cards changed as of January 3.

Paratransit Coordinating Council Update

Ben McMullan, PCC Chair, said that the Executive Committee would propose revisions to the PCC's bylaws at their next meeting.

Monthly Performance Report – November 2021

Ms. Rivas said the report was in the packet and provided a summary of the latest key performance indicators. She said they are continuing to experience a post-pandemic upward trend with ridership up 57.5 percent compared to 53 percent the previous year.

Strategic Planning, Development, and Sustainability Committee

Pilot Program: Free Fares for Low-income Students

Bruce Thompson, Operations Cost Analyst, and Gwen Buckley, Senior Planner, provided the presentation. Director Charles Stone said he hoped that the program would encourage more kids to ride the bus. Mr. Mau commended staff for putting the program together so quickly and creatively to serve the County's most vulnerable populations.

Legislative Committee

State and Federal Legislative Update

Casey Fromson, Acting Chief Communications Officer, noted that the Build Back Better Bill continues to be on hold. At the state level, she said that the Governor is scheduled to release his budget on January 10. She said that the state surplus is anticipated to be tens of billions of dollars and that there is a push to have some of those dollars go towards transportation. She noted that a decision has been made to allow grants to continue to flow to all the agencies and that there may be more legal action in the spring.

CLOSED SESSIONS

There were two Closed Sessions on a conference with legal counsel regarding existing litigation and a conference with labor negotiators. Ms. Cassman announced that there were no anticipated actions following the Closed Sessions and the Board adjourned the regular meeting.